



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-4220  
WTR-4.03

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Honorable Sherry Cordova  
Chairwoman  
Cocopah Indian Tribe  
14515 South Veterans Drive  
Somerton, AZ 85350

Subject: Verification of 2014 Inadvertent Overrun Payback by the Cocopah Indian Tribe (Tribe)

Dear Chairwoman Cordova:

Effective January 1, 2004, the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy (IOPP) established requirements for payback of inadvertent overuse of Colorado River water by users in the Lower Division States. In calendar year 2011, the Tribe incurred an overrun in the amount of 605 acre-feet (AF). In accordance with the IOPP, the Tribe submitted an IOPP Payback Plan (Payback Plan) in which the Tribe outlined a following program to pay back a minimum of 228 AF of the Tribe's 2011 overrun in 2014. By letter dated September 21, 2013, the Bureau of Reclamation approved the Tribe's Payback Plan.

By letter dated February 23, 2015, the Tribe submitted a report (IOPP certification report) certifying the extraordinary conservation measure implemented by the Tribe in 2014 and the amount of Colorado River water conserved for purposes of meeting the Tribe's 2014 payback obligation. As outlined in the Tribe's IOPP certification report, the Tribe followed 38 acres in 2014 and conserved 228 AF.

The IOPP requires that Reclamation monitor implementation of the extraordinary conservation measures outlined in approved payback plans. Reclamation conducted quarterly independent field verification inspections in 2014 and analyzed satellite imagery to verify the following implemented by the Tribe. The findings of Reclamation's verification analysis are included in the enclosed report, *Cocopah Indian Tribe Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy 2014 Verification Report*.

The Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Technical Committee (IOPTC) met on April 16, 2015, to review the Tribe's 2014 IOPP certification report and to make a recommendation regarding the adequacy of the report in demonstrating the achieved payback amount. The IOPTC unanimously recommended the Tribe be credited with 228 AF of payback for 2014.

Taking into consideration the recommendations provided by the IOPTC members, Reclamation's independent verification, and other information, I verify and make the final determination that the Tribe conserved 228 AF of Colorado River water during 2014 as documented in the Tribe's 2014 IOPP certification report, and therefore credit the Tribe with this amount of payback for 2014. Applying the 228 AF of payback credit reduces the Tribe's outstanding overrun balance to 149 AF.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Matuska, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at 702-293-8164 or [pmataska@usbr.gov](mailto:pmataska@usbr.gov).

Sincerely,



Terrance J. Fulp, Ph.D.  
Regional Director

Enclosure

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